

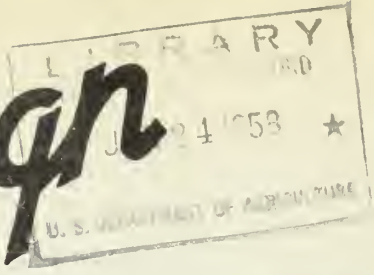
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# Foreign



# CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1957

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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## NOTE TO EXPORTERS

The Bureau of the Census of the U. S. Department of Commerce has asked the Foreign Agricultural Service to assist in calling attention to the fact that a new Schedule B making present export commodity classifications obsolete becomes effective January 1, 1958. This is very important to exporters.

Robert W. Burgess, Director of the Bureau, states that to avoid difficulty and delay in clearing through customs, it is essential that the new Schedule B be used in preparing export declarations for all shipments made after January 1.

The 1958 edition of Schedule B may be obtained from the U. S. Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., local customs collectors, and Department of Commerce field offices for \$6.00, plus \$1.50 for foreign mailing.

AUSTRIAN TOBACCO IMPORTS  
UP 2 PERCENT

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco by the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly during the first half of 1957 totaled 13.7 million pounds -- up 2 percent from the 13.5 million imported during the comparable period of 1956. Most of the increase occurred in larger takings of oriental tobaccos, particularly from Greece and Turkey. Takings from Brazil, Argentina and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland were also substantially larger than last year.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Austria, imports by country of origin, January-June 1956 and 1957, with percent change

Country of origin	January-June 1956	January-June 1957	Percent change from January- June 1956
	1,000 <u>pounds</u>	1,000 <u>pounds</u>	<u>Percent</u>
United States.....	2,964	2,038	- 31.2
Greece.....	3,234	5,525	+ 70.8
Turkey.....	2,807	3,011	+ 7.3
Bulgaria.....	926	132	- 85.7
Brazil.....	1,003	1,235	+ 23.1
Indonesia.....	100	--	--
Yugoslavia.....	381	300	- 21.3
Argentina.....	--	648	--
Fed. of Rhodesia & Nyasaland:	6	409	--
Hungary.....	937	304	- 67.6
Other.....	1,096	127	- 88.4
Total.....	13,454	13,729	+ 2.0

Source: Statistik des Aussenhandels Osterreichs, Erstes und Zweites Vierteljahr 1957.

Imports of United States leaf, mainly flue-cured and Burley, were 31 percent below the January-June 1956 level of 3.0 million pounds. Total takings of oriental leaf, amounting to 9.3 million pounds, were 11 percent larger than the January-June 1956 level of 8.4 million despite a decline in imports from Bulgaria, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Rumania.

Leaf imports from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland amounted to 409,000 pounds in contrast to only 6,000 pounds last year. Takings from Argentina, at 648,000 pounds, were the first reported imports from that country.

Average reported prices paid by the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly for leaf tobacco from various countries, in terms of U. S. cents per pound, during the first half of 1957 were: Argentina - 17.7; the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland - 29.9; Brazil - 32.8; and the United States - 54.1. Prices paid for oriental tobaccos were: Hungary - 27.8; Greece - 29.5; Yugoslavia - 41.0; Bulgaria - 62.5; and Turkey - 63.8.

#### BURLEY PRODUCTION INCREASING IN THE BELGIAN CONGO

Burley production in the Belgian Congo increased from 200,000 pounds in 1955 to about 700,000 pounds in 1957. Production of cigar leaf continues at 200,000 pounds, the level of recent years, while harvests of other dark air-cured (native) leaf have declined in recent years to about 4.4 million pounds in 1957.

Cigar and Burley tobaccos are grown by European farmers in Katanga and Kasai provinces. Production is as yet small and primarily experimental. Plantings of cigar tobacco, mostly Sumatra, grown for export, have declined in recent years due to low market prices. Plantings of Burley have increased partly because the local cigarette factory at Elisabethville purchases it at satisfactory prices and also because of good yields averaging about 2,200 pounds per acre.

No significant production increases are foreseen in the immediate future until more is known of suitable varieties, soils and methods of cultivation. Tobacco production in the Belgian Congo is encouraged by government-sponsored loans and government research in production problems.

#### GUATEMALAN CIGARETTE OUTPUT DOWN

Cigarette output in Guatemala during the first half of 1957 was about 4 percent below the comparable period last year. Production amounted to 791 million pieces, compared with the January-June 1956 figure of 826 million. The average monthly output during January-June 1957 was also 1 percent below the monthly average of 133 million pieces produced in calendar year 1955.

#### DANISH CIGARETTE OUTPUT UP 5 PERCENT

Cigarette output in Denmark during the first 9 months of 1957 amounted to 3.04 billion pieces - up about 5 percent from the 2.90 billion produced in January-September 1956. Production of cigarettes for the calendar year 1957, based upon current output, may approximate 4.05 billion pieces, compared with 3.88 billion in 1956.



## BURMA INCREASES FLUE-CURED PRODUCTION

Production of flue-cured tobacco in Burma rose from 1.7 million pounds in 1956 to 2.5 million in 1957, with the 1958 harvest forecast at about 3.5 million pounds. Total tobacco production also increased. It rose from 87 million pounds in 1956 to 108 million in 1957 and is expected to be near 108 million in 1958. In addition to flue-cured, Burma produces large quantities of both dark air-cured and dark sun-cured leaf.

The 1957 crop would probably have been larger except for strong competition for the use of tobacco land to grow groundnuts. Although tobacco provides a good return to farmers, the Government of Burma has strongly encouraged the growing of groundnuts to meet the current domestic shortage of edible oils. Some land that otherwise would have been used for tobacco is believed to have been diverted to groundnut crops.

WEST GERMANY TO GRANT IMPORT  
PERMITS FOR HYBRID SEED CORN

West Germany has announced that import permits will be granted for a number of varieties of hybrid seed corn from the United States as well as Canada, Hungary, Austria, and the Netherlands. Tenders should be submitted to Foreign Trade Agency, Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany, from January 6 to February 15, 1958.

Varieties specified are: Kingscrost KF and KC 3, Warwick 260, Jacques 802 J, Wisconsin 270, Pioneer 395, P.A.G. 32 and 28, Stockman 95, U22, Funks G 19, Pioneer 388, and Pioneer 377 A, Foddermaker E, A.H.P. 14, Jacques 1003 J, Iowealth 90, Warwick 303, Keystone 5, and Funks G 20.

## HONDURAN BANANAS DAMAGED

High winds the end of November blew down nearly 1 million banana plants in Honduras. This is expected to reduce Honduran banana exports for 1958 by about 400,000 stems.

BRITISH GUIANA'S RICE  
CROP REDUCED BY DROUGHT

The yield of the 1957 autumn rice crop in British Guiana is estimated at 45 percent below that of the 1956 autumn crop, despite an increase in acreage planted this year, according to trade reports. The autumn crop accounts for about 93 percent of British Guiana's total annual production.

The reduction in yield is attributed entirely to drought. The areas hardest hit are the entire Corentyne Coast, Western Berbice, and East Demerara. Growers in all rice-producing areas with adequate drainage and irrigation facilities have been requested to give serious consideration to the planting of a spring crop, even though it has not previously been their practice.

## U. S. MAJOR MARKET FOR AFGHAN KARAKUL SKINS

Of a total of 1,993,918 karakul skins exported by Afghanistan during the last marketing year, 1,381,930 went to the United States, and 601,963 to the United Kingdom, according to data published in Kabul attributed to the Afghan State Bank. The United States imported 1,575,086 Afghan skins the previous year.

ARGENTINE WHEAT SUPPLY  
SITUATION CONTINUES GOOD

The hwheat harvest now drawing to a close in Argentina is somewhat smaller than the large 1956 crop. No official estimate has been released, but unofficial estimates range from 185 to 225 million bushels. If the outturn should be at the higher limit of the range, the total supply would be only slightly below the supply for the 1956-57 season. Lower production is offset by larger carryover stocks.

Assuming a production of 225 million bushels, a commercial supply of about 300 million bushels would be available for domestic use and for export. This is only about 10 million bushels less than the supply a year ago, when exports were about 100 million bushels and the commercial carryover stocks about 75 million bushels. As this is more than a half year's domestic needs, stocks could be reduced much below this point without jeopardizing the country's position. Thus the smaller crop this year does not necessarily mean exports will be reduced from last year's level.

## ITALIAN RICE EXPORTS DECLINE

Rice exports from Italy in the January-August period totaled 81,000 metric tons. This was only one-third the 252,000 tons exported in the same months of 1956. The principal countries of destination were British Africa, Switzerland, Austria, and the Netherlands.

Carryover stocks of milled rice on September 15, 1957, were around 130,000 metric tons, compared with 200,000 tons on the same date a year earlier. Export supplies have been reduced in recent years largely because of cutbacks in rice acreage.

The latest estimate of 1957 rice acreage is 314,000 acres, the smallest since 1949. Acreage in 1956 was 341,000 acres, and in the 1950-54 period averaged 409,000 acres. The record was 440,000 acres in 1954; area in rice has been decreasing ever since.

All medium-grade rough rice of the 1957-58 crop is required to move through a rice pool. Farmers are paid 6,000 lire per metric quintal (\$4.35 per 100 pounds) for the rough rice, which is resold to millers at 7,070 lire per quintal (\$5.13 per 100 pounds). This is the same price arrangement as for the 1956 crop. The difference between the price of the rice purchased and that sold is used to partially offset losses from the exportation of rice at prices below the domestic market. Prices on the free market for the better grades of rough rice have been higher than a year ago.



RICE: Italian exports, by country of destination, January-August 1957,  
with comparisons

Country of destination	1953	1954	1955	1956	January-August 1/ 1956 : 1957	
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
Austria (milled) .....	22,815	21,190	15,337	21,832	10,046	7,478
Finland (semi-milled) .....	2,966	4,235	2/	4,880	3,980	3,976
Germany, Republic of:						
Semi-milled .....	44,071	40,315	18,583	31,653	24,874	775
Milled .....	7,522	8,084	1,727	2/	2/	2/
Total .....	51,593	48,399	20,310	31,653	24,874	775
Indonesia (milled) .....	2/	2/	2/	123,422	107,118	2/
Japan (milled) .....	37,269	57,675	65,807	32,079	32,079	2/
Netherlands:						
Semi-milled .....	6,642	1,203	1,259	2/	2/	2/
Milled .....	4,160	2/	13,335	18,454	9,955	6,896
Total .....	10,802	1,203	14,594	18,454	9,955	6,896
Pakistan (milled) .....	2/	2/	2/	13,573	2/	2/
Switzerland:						
Semi-milled .....	12,379	8,031	10,954	16,764	8,070	10,550
Milled .....	8,958	5,822	3,491	7,265	2,710	4,545
Total .....	21,337	13,853	14,445	24,029	10,780	15,095
Union of South Africa (milled)...	2/	2/	2/	8,052	2/	8,242
Other British Africa (milled)...	2/	2/	2/	17,840	13,550	18,039
United Kingdom (milled) .....	14,808	14,977	13,155	9,416	7,486	7,191
Other Europe 2/:						
Rough rice (milled equivalent):	682	1,156	895	2/	2/	1,537
Semi-milled .....	3,141	2/	373	9,008	4,669	939
Milled .....	22,817	1,523	485	2/	2/	2/
Total .....	26,640	2,679	1,753	9,008	4,669	2,476
Other countries:						
Rough rice (milled equivalent):	432	474	85	1,845	1,784	294
Semi-milled .....	3,270	3,167	9,734	4,714	3,518	4,339
Milled .....	51,544	28,852	14,418	28,751	21,858	6,186
Total .....	55,246	32,493	24,237	35,310	31,140	10,819
Total all rice:						
Rough rice (milled equivalent):	1,114	1,630	980	1,845	1,784	1,831
Semi-milled .....	72,469	56,951	40,903	67,019	45,111	20,579
Milled .....	169,893	138,123	127,755	280,684	204,802	58,577
Total .....	243,476	196,704	169,638	349,548	251,697	80,987

1/ Preliminary. 2/ If any, included in "other countries." 3/ May not include rice not separately reported, but included in "other countries."

Source: Statistico del Commercio con L'estero.

#### CHILE PROPOSES PLAN TO INCREASE WHEAT CROP

The Banco del Estado of Chile has proposed a plan to increase the country's wheat production through increased yields. The plan features distribution of fertilizers to growers at lower prices. With increased use of fertilizer it is believed that yields could be increased 16 percent and that domestic production could cover average requirements and make imports unnecessary.

Chile's average annual wheat deficit has been about 6 million bushels in recent years. If average yields could be raised to 21.6 bushels per acre from the 1951-55 average of 18.6 bushels there would be no deficit.

#### CANADA'S COTTON CONSUMPTION BELOW LAST YEAR

Canada's cotton consumption of 31,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during November 1957 was 6 percent less than consumption of 33,000 bales (revised) in October, and 14 percent below consumption of 36,000 bales in November 1956. Consumption during August-November 1957 was 124,000 bales, 8 percent below consumption of 135,000 bales a year earlier.

#### FINLAND'S COTTON IMPORTS HIGHEST IN RECENT YEARS

Finland's imports of 77,000 bales (500 pounds gross) of cotton during August-July 1956-57 were 15 percent above 1955-56 imports of 65,000 bales, and the highest in recent years. Practically all Finnish cotton imports are from the U.S.S.R. and the United States. About 40,000 bales per year usually are obtained under a trade agreement with the Soviet Union. Cotton from the United States is purchased partly for dollars, partly for local currency under Public Law 480 arrangements.

Quantities imported in August-July 1956-57, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: U.S.S.R. 42,000 bales (41,000); United States 31,000 (20,000); Greece 3,000 (300); and Egypt 1,000 (6,000).

Cotton consumption in Finland also increased in 1956-57, amounting to 74,000 bales, or 14 percent above consumption of 65,000 bales in 1955-56. Some reduction from this high level is anticipated by the trade in 1957-58, however, because of uncertainty over the effects of devaluation on prices, wages, and consumer demand. Devaluation of Finnish currency, effective September 16, 1957, reduced the finmark from 230 per dollar to 320 per dollar.

Cotton stocks on August 1, 1957, were estimated at 30,000 bales, up about 10 percent from 27,000 bales held a year earlier.

## KOREA'S COTTON IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION UP IN 1956-57

Korea's cotton imports were 217,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in the August-July 1956-57 season, 85 percent higher than unusually low imports of 117,000 bales in 1955-56, but only 28 percent above imports of 170,000 bales in 1954-55. All cotton is imported from the United States, financed under the foreign aid programs of the International Cooperation Administration or Public Law 480. The low volume in 1955-56 was attributed mainly to delay in reaching agreement on exchange rates and making arrangements for payments in local currency.

Cotton consumption in Korea was estimated at 270,000 bales in 1956-57, up 21 percent from consumption of 223,000 bales in 1955-56. Mill consumption (imported cotton) in 1956-57 was 198,000 bales, compared with 150,000 in 1955-56. Nonmill consumption accounts for practically all domestically produced cotton, which is used for quilts, mattresses, lining for clothing, and spinning for home use.

Cotton used by mills is mainly for producing cotton yarn and cotton sheeting. During 1956-57 cotton yarn production reached 82 million pounds, the highest since 1938, exceeding 1955-56 output by over 35 percent. Spindles in operation averaged 378,000, or 10 percent more than the average number operated in 1955-56. The bulk of yarn production is in counts 16s and 20s.

Production of cotton sheeting in 1956-57 was 178 million square yards, a new high, exceeding 1955-56 output by over 36 percent. About 80 percent of the fabric was produced by the 17 large textile mills, operating an average of 6,819 looms. The remaining fabric was produced by small weaving mills with yarn manufactured by the large cotton mills. About 50 percent of the cotton yarn is used for the manufacture of knit goods.

Cotton production in Korea is not expected to increase in 1957-58. The 72,000 bales grown in 1956-57 represented a decrease of about 11 percent from the 1955-56 crop of 81,000 bales. In 1957-58 the crop is expected to drop still further to 50,000 bales. Limited arable land for food production is expected to prevent any sizable increase in cotton production. Cotton stocks at mills on August 1, 1957, were estimated at 44,000 bales, up sharply from stocks of 25,000 bales held a year earlier.

## AUSTRALIA SUBSIDIZES AIRBORNE BEEF

The Australian Ministry for Primary Industry has announced that the 1.4 cent-per-pound subsidy on beef airshipped from Glenroy in Western Australia to coastal points (Wyndham or Derby) will be continued through 1958. During 1959, the subsidy will be about .9 cents per pound. Air Beef Pty, Ltd., of Glenroy, is shipping carcasses of beef to Wyndham for cutting into consumer-sized packets. The packets are then frozen for export. An expansion of this operation is planned.



## NEW SHIPS FOR AUSTRALIA-U.K. MEAT TRADE

The first of 4 ships specially designed for the Australian-United Kingdom meat trade left the United Kingdom on November 1, 1957. The ships are designed for use on the "north-about" route, or from Queensland north, through the Torres Strait, and west to the United Kingdom via Suez. This route is expected to save several days' transit time over the usual route south of Australia.

To facilitate loading in the shallow ports of Northern Australia, special consideration was given to the draft of the vessels. Each ship will have about 150,000 cubic feet of refrigerated space to carry chilled beef. The first ship is expected to leave Australia for the United Kingdom in January 1958, according to the Meat Producer and Exporter (Sydney).

## U. S. CATTLE IMPORTS HIGH

United States cattle imports from Canada and Mexico during November 1957 reached 175,357 head, according to the Livestock Inspection Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This represents an increase of 154,222 head over November 1956. The sharp rise is due to large imports of feeder cattle from both Mexico and Canada.

Canadian feeder cattle exports have increased the most rapidly. Total imports of Canadian cattle may exceed 400,000 this year. On December 3, 1957, the quarterly quota of 120,000 beef cattle weighing 700 pounds or more was reached, and the United States import duty for this class of cattle went up from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per 100 pounds. The duty will return to \$1.50 per 100 pounds at the start of a new quarter on January 1, 1958 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, November 25, 1957).

## NEW ZEALAND HOG SLAUGHTER LOW

New Zealand hog slaughter during the year ending September 30, 1957, was about 743,000 head, a drop of 9 percent from a year earlier. Pork production was also low, totaling only 84 million pounds in the period October 1, 1956-September 30, 1957.

Production in recent months has recovered slightly from low levels in the first half of 1957. Hog slaughter during September 1957 was 5 percent larger than a year earlier. However, slaughter has not risen to the high levels of 1955, and September 1957 slaughter was 22 percent lower than September 1955.

New Zealand exported 17 million pounds, or about 20 percent, of its pork production on a carcass weight basis in 1956. About 76 percent of its pork exports went to the United Kingdom. The British West Indies is New Zealand's second largest export market for pork.

# AUSTRALIA'S WOOL PRODUCTION REVISED DOWNWARD

Australian wool production during the 1957-58 season is now estimated at 1,463 million pounds, greasy basis, according to a revised estimate released on December 12 by the Australian Woolgrower's Council, the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

This is 9 percent below the July estimate and 7 percent below last season's record production of 1,565 million pounds. The revision was made in view of serious drought conditions and the sharp decline in wool receipts into store during November.

## DOMINION WOOL PRICES CONTINUE DECLINE

Wool prices at London and Dominion auctions continued to decline during the month of November. Wool values declined around 6 percent from the previous month and 20 percent from last season's peak in May.

Australian merino values declined steadily throughout the month and closed about 7 percent below the first week's sales. Crossbred values at New Zealand auctions dropped sharply during the early sales of the month but later regained most of the loss. Quantities offered at New Zealand auctions have been adversely affected by unfavorable shearing conditions.

The following prices (U. S. cents per pound, clean cost, c.i.f., in the United Kingdom) are based on quotations from sales in the United Kingdom and in the Dominions during selected months:

Quality	November 1956	May 1957	September 1957	October 1957	November 1957
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
70's.....	1.59	1.74	1.49	1.42	1.35
64's.....	1.46	1.63	1.40	1.32	1.25
60's.....	1.35	1.52	1.33	1.25	1.19
58's.....	1.17	1.39	1.27	1.19	1.13
56's.....	1.03	1.27	1.18	1.11	1.02
50's.....	.95	1.07	.97	.91	.85
48's.....	.93	1.04	.93	.88	.83
46's.....	.92	1.02	.91	.85	.82

Source: New Zealand Wool Commission (London Agency).



## CCC LIQUIDATES WOOL STOCKPILE

The Commodity Credit Corporation completed its wool disposal program on December 12. Under the program, CCC has sold about 149 million pounds of wool since November 1955. Sales were made on a competitive bid basis under a monthly quota of 6,225,000 pounds. Also, sales were made at 103 percent of 1954 schedule loan rates plus selling commission anytime buyers were willing to pay this price. About 120 million pounds were sold at competitive bids, 16 million pounds at schedule prices, and 13 million pounds went to Turkey under 2 barter deals.

SOUTH AFRICAN DRIED FRUIT  
PACK BELOW AVERAGE

According to the South African Dried Fruit Board and trade sources, the 1957 dried fruit pack amounts to only 9,800 short tons, or even less than the low 12,900-ton production of the previous season. In 1955--a year regarded as more normal for dried fruit production--the pack amounted to 16,800 tons. The dried tree-fruit pack for 1957 was more seriously affected than dried vine-fruit production.

FRUITS, DRIED: Union of South Africa, production  
according to types, 1957.

	Short tons
Dried vine fruits:	
Currants.....	1,000
Bleached Sultanas.....	500
Thompsons Seedless.....	1,500
Sultanas.....	1,400
Raisins.....	2,200
Total vine fruits.....	6,600
Dried tree fruits:	
Prunes.....	1,600
Apricots.....	600
Apples.....	100
Peaches.....	700
Pears.....	200
Total tree fruits.....	3,200
Total all fruits.....	9,800

As of the end of September 1957, total dried fruit exports (excluding exports by rail to adjoining African territories) amounted to 3,947 short tons, or approximately 60 percent of the 6,495 tons of dried fruits exported during the 1956 season. To date, 1957 dried fruit exports represent about two-fifths of the year's total pack. Under normal conditions, exports of dried fruits between September 30 and the end of the calendar year are negligible. Abnormally cold weather during the South African early "spring" season (September) is responsible for the prediction that oncoming fruit crops will be 2 weeks late.

INDIA SETS 1957-58  
COFFEE EXPORT QUOTA

The Indian Coffee Board recently fixed the Indian exportable surplus of coffee from the 1957-58 crop at 121,588 bags. The export quota for the 1956-57 crop was 252,000 bags. Domestic consumption for 1958 has been estimated at 481,797 bags.

DUTCH EXPORTS OF BUTTER  
UP 18 PERCENT

In the first 9 months of 1957, exports of butter from the Netherlands totaled 55.2 million pounds, compared with 47.0 million pounds in the same period of 1956.

Sales to the United Kingdom were heavier than a year ago, amounting to 21.2 million pounds (16.0 million pounds last year). Purchases by the Federal Republic of Germany also were up--11.6 million pounds, compared with 7.8 million pounds in 1956. Exports to Belgium increased to 11.3 million pounds from 8.4 million pounds a year ago. Italy also was an important outlet, taking 5.1 million pounds, compared with only 168,000 pounds last year. Sales to France dropped to 224,000 pounds from 7.0 million pounds in comparable 1956.

Shipments of cheese declined to 137.3 million pounds from 148.2 million pounds. Exports to all major markets were down, including those to the Federal Republic of Germany, which dropped to 61.0 million pounds from 63.8 million pounds a year ago. Belgium took 40.1 million pounds in January-September 1957, compared with 40.7 million pounds in the same months of 1956. Trade with the United Kingdom dropped to approximately 10.0 million pounds from 11.8 million pounds.

Trade in evaporated and condensed milk was down 11 percent from 422.6 million pounds. Shipments to Thailand were up to 59.5 million pounds (52.2 million pounds last year). Exports to the Philippine Republic continued heavy, amounting to 44.1 million pounds, compared with 36.5 million pounds. Greece purchased 19.2 million pounds, an increase of 6.9 million pounds over 1956. Trade with all other important markets, among them Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaya and Singapore, Burma, and Belgium, declined sharply.

Shipments of dried whole milk rose to 50.3 million pounds from 47.4 million pounds. Principal outlets were Belgium (9.8 million pounds in January-September 1957, against 8.5 million pounds in January-September, 1956); Venezuela (8.2 million pounds and 7.3 million pounds); West Germany, (6.2 million pounds and 4.1 million pounds).

Nonfat dry milk exports in the first 9 months of 1957 amounted to 8.7 million pounds, or about half the quantity shipped in the same months of 1956. This decline was largely due to a sharp drop in trade with India.

## NEW ZEALAND'S 1956-57 PRODUCTION OF BUTTERFAT DOWN SLIGHTLY

Latest official estimates place New Zealand's butterfat production for the 1956-57 season at 525 million pounds, off 1 percent from production of 531 million pounds in the previous season. Butterfat processed at dairy plants totaled 459 million pounds, distributed among the major products as follows: 367 million pounds (80.0 percent) for butter; 84 million pounds (18.3 percent) for cheese; and 8.0 million pounds (1.7 percent) for condensed, powdered, and other milk products.

Creamery butter manufactured during 1956-57 totaled 444.2 million pounds, a fractional decline from the previous years record output of 448.0 million pounds. Manufacture of cheese again registered a slight decline, amounting to 211.5 million pounds, the lowest level since 1947-48.

Output of most other manufactured products was up from the previous year. Production of dried skim milk was a record 113.3 million pounds, an increase of 43 percent over the 79.1 million pounds produced the previous season.

Export supplies of major dairy products for the 1956-57 season are reported as follows: butter 352.8 million pounds; cheese 192.4 million pounds; dried skim milk 100.0 million pounds; and condensed and powdered whole milk 21.5 million pounds. The bulk of these products went to traditional markets in the United Kingdom.

## UNITED KINGDOM DRY MILK EXPORTS SHOW SHARP INCREASE

During the first 9 months of 1957, United Kingdom nonfat dry milk exports totaled 9.7 million pounds, almost 8 times exports during the comparable period in 1956. Denmark, the major market, took 3.7 million pounds (primarily for animal feed) and was largely responsible for the increase, although shipments to India, Nigeria, and the Netherlands were running ahead of last year. Canada, seldom a market for British nonfat dry milk, took 781,000 pounds.

Dry whole milk exports during January-September 1957 totaled 2.8 million pounds, 62 percent over comparable 1956. West Germany became the United Kingdom's major dry whole milk market, taking 1.2 million pounds; these shipments were largely responsible for the total increase.

In recent years the United Kingdom has substantially increased its exports of processed milk products. While dry milk exports are much greater this year, they have not reached the magnitude of condensed and evaporated milk exports; and it does not appear likely that the United Kingdom will change from a net importer to a net exporter of dry milk, as was the case with canned milk 4 years ago.

ECUADOR AND FINLAND SIGN  
TRADE AGREEMENT

Representatives of Ecuador and Finland have signed a commercial *modus vivendi* (trade agreement) of one year's duration, to be renewed annually at the pleasure of both parties. Its purpose is to facilitate the exchange of Ecuadoran agricultural products (bananas, coffee, cacao, etc.) for Finnish industrial and agricultural machinery. Commissions will be established in Quito and Helsinki to administer the treaty and to assist in the exportation and importation of the above products. The treaty was signed in Quito during the week of December 8-14.

COSTA RICA TO INCREASE  
OIL PALM ACREAGE

As part of an expansion program to begin in January 1958, the Compania Bananera de Costa Rica plans to plant 2,000 acres in African oil palms. Plantings will be in the Quepos area (Pacific Lowlands), and a new system based on squares of 9 meters (about 30 feet) will be used. With this area in African palms the Compania Bananera expects to satisfy rapidly increasing domestic demand for African palm oil.

The fruit from 8,600 acres of African oil palms in Costa Rica reportedly yielded about 6,000 short tons of pericarp oil in 1957. The oil is extracted in a modern mill, barreled, and then transported by sea barge and rail or truck to the margarine plant and other oil-processing mills in and about the capital.

BURMA'S 4-YEAR PLAN TO INCREASE  
PEANUT PRODUCTION UNDER WAY

The Government of Burma has under way a 4-Year Plan to expand peanut acreage and production with a view to becoming self-sufficient in edible oils. Under the plan, which went into effect in the 1956-57 crop year, peanut acreage is to be increased about 335,000 acres over the area of 810,000 acres harvested in 1955-56. The acreage increase in 1956-57, however, was only about 35,000 acres. A further increase, of 68,000 acres, is planned for 1957-58.

An anticipated yield of 900 pounds of unshelled peanuts per acre on the increased acreage scheduled for the 4-year period (possibly too optimistic in view of the present 535-pound yield) would produce an additional 150,000 tons of peanuts equivalent to around 40,000 tons of peanut oil. This additional oil would make a total annual domestic supply of about 100,000 tons of edible oils, the estimated requirements this year. However, the plan makes no allowances for a slight annual increase in population and purchasing power.

About 40,000 tons of peanut oil and 20,000 tons of sesame oil were produced in 1955-56.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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